



MESSIANIC JEWISH

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Teaching and living a prophetic vision of Jewish life renewed in Yeshua

RS601 Sermon Preparation and Delivery

Instructor: Rabbi Richard Nichol, D.Min.

Winter Quarter, 2018-2019

December 30, 2018-February 24, 2019

Location: Orbund (server11.orbund.com)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Messianic Jewish leader is a communicator. This course teaches the skills necessary for effective sermon preparation and delivery, as well as effective communication skills appropriate to other settings.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM

This course is required for the MRS degree and is an elective for Jewish Studies students.

RELEVANCE

Messianic Jewish rabbis and lay leaders are expected to become good communicators whether they are religious professionals or not. This course is intended to facilitate this goal.

PREREQUISITE

None

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Students should have a computer with a camera and Zoom app.

COURSE FORMAT

Weekly lectures and discussions via webcasts will be augmented with public speaking assignments to be completed in the student's home congregation and presented during class. Each class session meets for two hours on Sundays at 4pm EST from Dec. 23-Feb. 10.

REQUIREMENTS

1. All required reading
2. Preparation and preaching three messages followed by evaluation by a focus group
3. A homiletics diary – see below
4. Attendance of all class sessions
5. Evaluation of Speakers' sermons

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Jenson, Richard. *Thinking In Story*. Lima: CSS Publishing, 1995.
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.
- *The Art of Storytelling by The Great Courses*, Narrated by Professor Hannah B. Harvey.
- Two sermons by Dr. Martin Luther King.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Abrams, Elliot. *Faith or Fear*. New York: The Free Press, 1997.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.
- Sosland, Henry A. *A Guide for Preachers on Composing and Delivering Sermons*. New York: The Jewish Theological Seminary of New York, 1987.
- Soulen, R. Kendall. *The God of Israel and Christian Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.
- Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. *Jewish Humor*. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1992.
- Teplitz, Rabbi Saul. *The Best of the Best Jewish Sermons*. Middle Village: Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 1996.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

Evaluation Focus Groups: Each student will secure the help of 5-7 people who will listen to his/her drashes and evaluate these by filling out appropriate evaluation forms. He/she will prepare and deliver three sermons during the eight weeks of class and meet with the group following each delivery.

Class Participation: During class, students will have opportunity to practice introductions, storytelling, gesture and articulation, conclusions and other dimensions of great preaching. This practice will be based on their out-of-class sermon preparation.

Student Sermons: By the end of class, the student will submit: three sermon outlines, a daily diary of questions and challenges encountered during the two months of class, three outlines from the three prepared drashes, listings of sermon illustrations sources, and other insight gained during the course regarding excellent Messianic Jewish preaching.

Speakers' Sermons: The student will also

1. choose four (4) sermons to listen to, two by Christian speakers, two by mainstream Jewish speakers;
2. present a one-page evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of these sermons in light of class material and required reading.

The due date for all these materials is **Feb. 24, 2019**.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1 Sunday, December 23, 2018 – Introduction

Reading:

Biblical Preaching Chapters 1-2

The Art of Storytelling Chapters 1-3

Unit 2 Sunday, Dec. 30 – The importance of story

Reading:

Biblical Preaching Chapters 3-4

The Art of Storytelling Chapters 4-6

Unit 3 Sunday, January 6 – The all-important Big Idea

Reading:

Biblical Preaching Chapters 5-6

The Art of Storytelling Chapters 7-9

Unit 4 Sunday, January 13 – Working with the text of Scripture: The Exegetical Idea

Reading:

Biblical Preaching Chapters 7-8

The Art of Storytelling Chapters 10-12

Unit 5 Sunday, January 20 – From Exegetical Idea to Homiletical Idea

Reading:

Biblical Preaching Chapters 9-10

The Art of Storytelling Chapters 13-15

Unit 6 Sunday, January 27 – Sermon introductions and illustrations,
preaching with notes or very limited notes

Reading:

The Art of Storytelling Chapters 16-18

Unit 7 Sunday, February 3 – The secrets of great delivery

Reading: *The Art of Storytelling* Chapters 19-21

Unit 8 Sunday, February 10 – Understanding our primary audience: reaching Messianic
Jews

Reading: *The Art of Storytelling* Chapters 22-24

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course successfully, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the preaching of other speakers
2. Evaluate important cultural dynamics and their effects on our audience.

3. Distill from Torah portions and other parts of Scripture the Big Idea.
4. Express the Big Idea in a meaningful, compelling and responsible way
5. Learn the body language and verbal dimensions of effective preaching

ASSESSMENT

Grades will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Completion of all preaching and journaling assignments (40%)
- In class preaching and participation (25%)
- Completion of reading assignments (20%)
- Speakers’ sermons (15%)

THE GRADING SYSTEM

The basic letter grades have the following significance:

A Exemplary

B Adequate

C Passing, but requiring substantial improvement

P Passing (for use only if the Pass/Fail option is available and selected)

F Failed

Grades have been assigned the following numerical values for the purpose of computing the grade point average:

A 4.0 | A- 3.7 | B+ 3.3 | B 3.0 | B- 2.7 | C+ 2.3 | C 2.0 | C- 1.7 | F 0.0

Further aspects of the MJTI Grading System can be found on page 29-30 of the MJTI Catalog.

Sermon Assessment Criteria				
Introduction and Conclusion	Exegetical and Homeletical Idea	Presence	Quality of Illustrations	Total
25%	25%	25%	25%	100%
Does the idea propel the sermon forward? Does the conclusion challenge and/or uplift?	Do these accurately reflect the meanings of the text under consideration?	Do body language, eye contact and use of voice help or hinder the presentation?	Do these give clarity to the points being made in the sermon? Are they tasteful and appropriate?	

MJTI COURSE POLICIES

1. **Preparation:** Each student is expected to be prepared for and to participate in the online class discussions.
2. **Dishonesty and plagiarism:** Any form of dishonesty (copying from another student's work or allowing your work to be copied) or plagiarism (passing off another's work as your own, not giving appropriate credit to another's ideas) will not be tolerated. Such misconduct will result in an automatic "F" grade for the class and a permanent notice placed in the student's academic record. If you are unsure whether an action is permissible or not, please check with the instructor.
3. **Incompletes:** Incompletes will only be granted when the instructor and Academic Dean agree that significant extenuating circumstances have prevented a student from finishing the course work by the stipulated due date. Extenuating circumstances are major, unplanned, unanticipated, and unavoidable disruptions in one's life or work. To request an incomplete, the "Request for Incomplete" form must be downloaded from the MJTI website "Download" page and submitted to the course instructor for approval. If the instructor rejects the request, he/she will inform the student of the decision. If the instructor supports the request, he/she will sign and date the "Request for Incomplete" form, send it to the MJTI Registrar, who will refer the matter to the Academic Dean for final approval. If the Incomplete grade is granted, the completed course work is due to the instructor by the final assignment due date of the following quarter. If the work is not completed within this time, the instructor determines whether a reduced grade or a grade of F is warranted, based on the amount and quality of the work that has been completed. Further extensions of time, justified by extreme circumstances, are granted only by the Academic Dean.
4. **Leave of Absence:** MJTI programs are designed to permit students to pursue their studies while managing the many responsibilities they have as adult professionals. MJTI will, however, consider a leave of absence for a student who is experiencing hardships that make effective progress in her/his academic program unusually difficult. Students who, due to unforeseen and serious circumstances (including personal, family emergency, medical, and military service) are unable to take or complete a course during the academic year may submit a Request for a Leave of Absence status to the MJTI Registrar's office. Such status is granted at the sole discretion of the Academic Dean.

Non-attendance does not constitute official withdrawal. If a student who began attendance and did not officially withdraw fails to earn a passing grade in at least one course over an entire term, MJTI must assume that the student has unofficially withdrawn. For this purpose, non-passing grades are defined as W or I. Unofficial withdrawals will be determined within 60 days of the end of the term.

5. **Extensions:** Extensions of the due date for the final assignments are not permitted. Students who do qualify for an Incomplete should submit as much work as possible

by the due date so that the instructor has time to grade all work in time to meet the instructor's deadline for submitting grades to the MJTI office. At the instructor's discretion, work may be accepted later than the due date, with a deduction of grade for each late day.

6. **Change of Student Status:** A student who has registered to take a course for credit may switch to the status of auditor up to, and including, the last day of the last week of class by submitting an Add/Drop/Audit form to the Registrar. The tuition differential will only be refunded if the request form is received by the end of the fourth week of the course.
7. **Discussion privacy:** The course blog is accessible only with the user name and password provided to you. To ensure a positive forum for course interaction, access to the course blog will only be granted with the instructor's permission. Likewise, students are asked to refrain from excerpting lessons or threaded discussions from the blog in any format. This will enable the cultivation of a safe and honest forum for dialogue.
8. **Instructors and Email:** Regardless of the course format, instructors shall be available during the course week for private contact from students via email. Instructors are required to respond within 24 hours of receipt (Sunday – Thursday) of student inquiries made via email. These guidelines apply both to email from students and to student questions asked of the instructor in asynchronous discussion.

Questions: If you have any questions regarding assignments, feel free to e-mail them to the instructor at richnichol4@gmail.com

STRUCTURED WORK HOURS

16 hours	Class time
2 hours	Private instruction with Instructor
10 hours	Assigned reading (200 pages)
10 hours	Journaling
20 hours	Sermon preparation
10 hours	Preaching and story telling
10 hours	Interaction with Focus Group
12 hours	Speakers' sermons

Total: 90 hours